

## Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 EA-09 NEA-10 AID-05

EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DIWY-01 PA-02 CU-04

OES-06 L-03 TRSE-00 /096 W  
----- 124079

R 151816Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 869

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 1799

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP; MONTREAL FOR ICAO

PARIS FOR UNESCO ROME FOR FODAG; VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: UNDP EAID ES

SUBJ: UNDP: EVALUATION OF UNDP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN EL SALVADOR

REF:STATE 72386

1. ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM. RESREP APPEARS TO HAVE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER UNDP ACTIVITIES. HE NOTES THAT ALL ACTIVITIES ARE CHanneled THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (FORMERLY CONAPLAN), AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOES PLANNING AGENCY HAS IMPROVED IN COORDINATING UNDP'S IN-COUNTRY ASSISTANCE. HE APPEARS TO MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP WITH AGENCIES WHICH OPERATE WITHIN UNDP AND WITH HOST GOVERNMENT. UNDP AND IBRD UNDERTAKINGS ARE COORDINATED AND COMPLEMENTARY.

2. COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. UNDP,  
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USAID, AND IDB MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH

MINISTRY OF PLANNING. UNDP THROUGH ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES PROVIDES ASSISTANCE FOR VARIOUS SECTORS AND, IN COMPARISON TO OTHER MULTI AND BILATERAL AGENCIES, HAS GIVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE TO INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. ASSISTANCE TO HOST GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: TECHNICAL ADVISORS, COMMODITIES, AND PARTICIPANT TRAINING. UNDP IN COORDINATION WITH HOST GOVERNMENT HAS CARRIED OUT SHORT AND LONG TERM RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT RESULTS WILL FORM BASIS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS. A BETTER UTILIZATION OF EXTERNAL TA RESOURCES BY HOST GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN NOTED, MAINLY THROUGH EFFORTS MADE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY.

3. FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS. (A) UNDP PROGRAMS HAVE ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE UNDP IMPOSED AN EXPENDITURE CEILING FOR THIS YEAR AND COSTS FOR TECHNICAL ADVISORS INCREASED OVER 60 PERCENT BETWEEN 1973 AND 1975. COMBINATION OF THESE PROBLEMS HAS VIRTUALLY PARALYZED SOME PROJECTS AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED ALL REMAINING FOR PRESENT YEAR. (B) OF \$10 MILLION PROGRAMMED FOR SECOND FIVE-YEAR CYCLE (1977-81), ONE MILLION WILL BE USED TO COVER DEFICIT OF FIRST FIVE-YEAR CYCLE (1973-77) AND DUE TO GENERAL COST INCREASES, A GREATER REDUCTION IN AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES IS FORESEEN.

(C) NEW UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM WILL BE PREPARED BY JULY 1976 TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS AS MENTIONED ABOVE.

4. COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW WAS HELD AS PLANNED LAST YEAR. IN VIEW OF FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS EMPHASIS WILL BE GIVEN TO PARTICIPANT TRAINING. THERE WAS EXTENSIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE RESREP, HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EXECUTING AGENCY PERSONNEL. THE AID MISSION IS NOT AWARE OF PARTICIPATION BY OTHER DONORS.

5. PROJECT EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION. BOTH HOST GOVERNMENT AND RESREP CONSIDER TRIPARTITE PROJECT REVIEW SYSTEM EXPEDITIOUS AND FLEXIBLE IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO PROJECT PROBLEMS. REVIEWS ARE HELD EVERY SIX MONTHS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF UNDP, (RESREP AND ADVISORS), IMPLEMENTING AGENCY AND MINISTRY OF PLANNING PERSONNEL, AND QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED BY ADVISORS TO MINISTRY OF PLANNING. WITH REGARD TO STEPS TO STRENGTHEN OR ELIMINATE WEAK PROJECTS, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE ALLOWED TO DIE. ON ACCOUNT OF FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS, UNDP SUPPORT HAS BEEN TERMINATED (AT LEAST IN 1976) FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

6. APPRAISAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS. USAID HAS FREQUENT CONTACTS  
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WITH RESREP AND PROVIDES COMMENTS TO UNDP ON THEIR PROPOSED PROJECTS. BECAUSE THEIR PROJECTS OFTEN ARE IN AREAS THAT DO NOT CONFLICT WITH MISSION CONCENTRATION, OUR COMMENTS ARE GENERALLY BRIEF AND EITHER FAVORABLE OR NON-COMMITAL. UNDP EL SALVADOR IS NOT AWARE OF ANY RECENT CHANGE IN FORMAT FOR PROJECT DOCUMENTATION. 7 WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. IMPACT OF RECENT EMPHASIS ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IS NOT YET EVIDENT IN THE UNDP PROGRAM. HOWEVER, UNDP IS ATTEMPTING TO RECRUIT MORE WOMEN FOR EXPERT

POSITIONS IN SALVADOR.

8. GENERAL. ALTHOUGH UNDP AND HOST GOVERNMENT WORK IN CLOSE COOPERATION, PROGRAMS ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTATION DUE TO: 1) FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS; 2) PROJECTS SOMETIMES POORLY PLANNED AND COVERING FIELDS OF LOW GOVERNMENT PRIORITY; 3) LOW QUALITY AND UNTIMELY ARRIVAL OF EXPERTS ASSIGNED TO PROGRAMS.  
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